

\$100,000 LOSS IN PLAZE AT CULVER

EXPOSE SCANDAL IN COUNTY JAIL; TURNKEY 'FIRED'

Sheriff Declares Bernhardt Exceeded Authority in Freeing Prisoners.

"CONFIDENCE VIOLATED"

Discharged Jailer Changes Mind and Refuses to Make Any Statement.

On information furnished Sheriff Low Duck by The News-Times that county official, with three more weeks of his term to serve, Monday barred a county jail scandal whose ramifications may involve several of the sheriff's staff. The jail turnkey, Albert Bernhardt, was summarily discharged from office Monday by Sheriff Duck for gross violation of the trust of his office, and Sheriff Duck is understood to be investigating a number of aspects of the present scandal which cast serious reflection on his entire administration as sheriff.

The information which led to the summary discharge of Turnkey Bernhardt was that a county jail prisoner, whose sentence does not expire until December 15, had been released. This prisoner was Mike Vintella, 402 Short st., Mishawaka, who was sentenced to 30 days in jail by Judge John M. Raab of Mishawaka on November 15. The 30 days sentence suspended on a previous conviction for violation of the liquor laws in Mishawaka was revoked at that time by Judge Raab, and sentence on the second conviction was held up pending the serving of the suspended sentence.

Vintella Home Sunday. According to information the Mishawaka police received Sunday, Vintella came to his home and was alleged to have assaulted his wife. The Mishawaka police received a call from neighbors about 10 o'clock that night, but when they reached the home, Vintella was not to be found, and his wife would not admit that he had been there.

Monday morning Capt. Beecher and Officer Marchant of the Mishawaka force again went to the Vintella home, and Mrs. Vintella told them that her husband had come home Sunday afternoon about 2 o'clock and remained until just before the police responded to the call made on neighbors' complaint. She was reluctant about telling the officers that her husband had assaulted her, but her little son was more voluble. "Papa pull mamma's hair and chase her out of the house," the youngster said.

"Treated Dirty," Says. Following the receipt of this information from the Mishawaka police, The News-Times called Sheriff Duck and presented the facts ascertained in Mishawaka and asked the sheriff if he knew anything about the case. Sheriff Duck professed to be astonished and emphatically said that there could be nothing to it.

"I don't believe any of my men would treat me as dirty as that," he said when the Mishawaka police officers' positive statements were made known to him.

"If they have let any prisoners out before their time was up they did so against my positive orders. I don't believe they would do anything like that."

The sheriff promised to investigate the situation and asked to be called again in a short time. When he was called again his brief statement was but verification of the information furnished him by The News-Times.

"Yes he's out," he said, "and I've fired Bernhardt, the turnkey, for letting him go before his time was up."

Bernhardt, the discharged turnkey, is said to have refused to make a statement and explanation to Sheriff Duck. He was interviewed at his home soon after he relinquished his keys to the county jail and while he would make no statement relative to the present situation, stated he would make a later statement. He said that he had been treated squarely by Sheriff Duck, and that he had been absolutely fair to the sheriff.

Mrs. Bernhardt appeared at the door with the discharged jail official when a News-Times reporter called, and when her husband declared that he had no statement to make, she said to him "Go ahead and tell everything." "No, not now," Bernhardt replied, intimating that he will make startling disclosures when he does break the silence.

Another attempt was made last evening to secure a statement from the discharged jailer, but he declined to do so.

Exonerated



GOV. RUSSELL, who was late yesterday exonerated of charges brought against him by Miss Francis Birkhead, stenographer.

GOV. RUSSELL IS EXONERATED BY JURY'S VERDICT

Miss Francis Birkhead Loses Suit Against Mississippi Executive.

JURORS ACT QUICKLY

Reach Agreement in Less Than Half Hour—Plaintiff May Appeal Case.

OXFORD, Miss., Dec. 11.—(By A. P.)—A verdict for the defendant was returned at 6:08 tonight in the suit for \$100,000 damages instituted by Miss Francis Birkhead, stenographer, against Gov. Lee M. Russell, based on charges of seduction and other allegations. The case went to the jury at 5:40 p. m.

The verdict, merely saying, "We the jury, find for the defendant," was returned just 28 minutes after the case was submitted to it. Neither the plaintiff nor the defendant were in the court room. Only the judge and a few court attaches and newspapermen were on hand when the jury reported.

Arguments Brilliant.

Within three minutes from the time the verdict was presented, the court adjourned and the trial of Mississippi's most widely discussed case in a decade passed into history.

Submission of the case to the jury followed four hours of argument in which pleas, brilliant and abounding with dramatic and intense implications, were made to the jury—on the one hand for exoneration of the governor and on the other for a verdict upholding the contention of the young woman that she had been wronged by the state executive and was deserving of redress.

Miss Birkhead asked for \$100,000 damages, \$50,000 on each of the two counts, one charging seduction and the other impairment of health as a result of an alleged operation which she declared Mr. Russell had committed on her.

The jury was composed of married men ranging in age from 46 to 76. Thirty witnesses were examined during the seven days of the trial.

Thanks Jury.

The governor and Mrs. Russell returned to the court house soon as they were advised that a verdict had been returned and personally thanked the jury.

C. M. McNeill, chief counsel for Miss Birkhead, stated he would have no statement at this time with reference to the case. "As to what course I will pursue in the future I have not yet determined," said Mr. McNeill. He indicated that in all probability an appeal would be taken.

It was stated that only one ballot was taken by the jury in the absence of Miss Birkhead, who returned tonight to New Orleans, where she now has her home. Gov. and Mrs. Russell will return to Jackson tomorrow.

As an aftermath of the trial, a clause in the indictment issued for Theodore G. Bilbo, former governor, who failed to appear as a witness in response to a summons by the attorneys for Miss Birkhead. It was expected Mr. Bilbo would be required to appear before Judge Holmes at the next term of court in April.

RUSSIA IS STILL PUSHING CLAIMS

Hopes to Force Position at Lausanne Concerning Closing Dardanelles.

LAUSANNE, Dec. 11.—(By A. P.)—Russia has not abandoned hope of forcing her position on the Lausanne conference concerning the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus or at least of reducing to a minimum the number of foreign vessels which will be permitted to pass through these waters to the Black sea.

Mr. Tchitcherine called on Ismet Pasha today with counter proposals. He informed Ismet that Russia would never sign a straits settlement which followed the lines of allied project. The allied project is that the straits shall be open to all ships of all nations and that the straits shall be under the control of the Black sea.

As a counter measure, Tchitcherine asked that the Turkish delegation support a plan whereby foreign nations could dispatch through the straits only one-third as many warships as Russia maintained in the Black sea. This was argued, was only fair to Russia, because the entente powers could always amalgamate their forces and thus be as powerful as Russia.

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Influence on Music.

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Established Order Upheld in Recent British Election

News-Times Editor Analyzes Present Political Situation in Empire and Explains Conservative Triumph—Sees Notables at Close Range.

By ROYD GURLEY.

LONDON, England.—In the one week spent in this country, I have seen the three dramatic, if not the most important, figures in public life.

I saw Lloyd George break another of Britain's traditions as he was on his way to defeat, the tradition which demands that no public leader make speeches on election day.

At Bedford, the birthplace of John Bunyan, the former premier paused on his way to temporary oblivion to shatter this last tradition and to make an appeal to voters as they were on their way to the polls. I saw the king, quite the most insignificant of figures in public life, as he rode in his coach of gold to the Parliament house to open the session by reading the speech that had been carefully and adroitly written for him by the new government.

He had on his new clothes, for his job in this empire seems to be limited to the reading of a speech on such occasions, opening charity bazaar and endorsing the rest of his time furnishing a figurehead for the government.

Visit Lady Astor. The most important of all was Lady Astor, an American woman who is a living dynamo and to whose home we were invited in the evening of the first day's session of parliament, which she enlivened by challenging any group to appropriate to itself a monopoly of fighting for better conditions of living for men and women of this country.

A British election has many points of similarity with those of America, although its differences of method are confusing. Summed down, it is the battle between the Conservatives, who have power and those who want power.

There is the same haste of workers to get the voters to the polls, the same appeals to prejudice and passion, the same eagerness of the gathering in public places to watch the returns, the same cheering as the flashes upon the bulletin boards show gains or losses.

How long this outstanding character will remain out of power is a matter of much speculation. There are those who believe that the inevitable drive of conditions will soon force the present government to dissolve and that when that time comes, the former premier will again be called upon as the strong man of the hour to come back and try to untangle affairs.

For Americans, it may be interesting and somewhat important to understand the battle that is raging beneath the surface of affairs.

The election was a battle between radicals of an extreme sort with a program to secure the radical program, and the general opinion that it meant merely sparing to gain time.

The British government submitted a general plan to solve the deadlock; it practically offered to cancel France's debt to Great Britain as an inducement for seeing down the amount of monetary demands upon Germany. The French, Italian and Belgian premiers, with their staff of experts will embark for home tomorrow morning.

This conference resembles several of its predecessors in that the conference insist that it has not been a failure; that its dissolution cannot be described as a deadlock, and in general that there is a better understanding among them than before they met. Certainly this attitude pictures their hopes, if not the realities.

However, steadfastly she may stand aloof and protest her detachment from these European debates, the United States cannot prevent the possibility of her participation being made the subject of speculation. Continental politicians contend that repatriation and the adjustment of war debts cannot be separated and that the United States cannot avoid becoming a party to the solution of these problems.

LIBERAL CONCLAVE REFUSES TO SEAT LABOR PARTY MEN

Conference of Progressives Has Spirited Debate Over Delegation.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 11.—(By A. P.)—Spirited debate marked the session of the Conference for Progressive Political Action late today when, after the committee on credentials had been reported relative to the seating of delegates from the Workers Party of America, C. E. Ruthenberg, secretary of the party, arose and asked why he and three other delegates had not been seated.

Edward Keating, former congressman from Illinois, who was seated and who the party was "un-American and anti-labor and since this convention stands for the flag and constitution, we are going to kick the representatives of this party out because they do not stand for the flag."

The seating of the Labor party delegates was then referred to the committee on credentials which it is understood has voted unanimously against seating them. The convention then adjourned.

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Tiernan was returned to his first wife, from whom he had sought divorce following a sensational suit involving paternity of their child, remained in hiding near New York City, but made the announcement through his brother, assistant corporation counsel here.

ALLIES ADJOURN PARLEY; PLAN LATER MEETING

Conference Held at London on Reparations Ends Without Agreement.

JAN. 2 GATHERING DATE

Diplomats Will Convene at Paris in Further Effort to 'Get Together.'

LONDON, Dec. 11.—(By A. P.)—The London conference of German reparations, generally described at critical conference, ended today in agreement only on another conference. The next link in the long chain of the allies' struggle to get together will be formed at Paris on Jan. 2. There will be a fortnight then left for the allies to agree upon some program.

The moratorium granted the Germans expires Jan. 15, and the next payment on account of reparations, which Germany protests she is unable to meet will be due on that date.

Another futile round-table session of the diplomats would seem to mean only fulfillment of the French plans for independent action, which British opinion believes would spell calamity for the tottering edifice of European prosperity and sow the seeds for a future great war.

Last Three Days.

The agreement to disagree—only temporarily, the diplomats assert—was consummated in three days, ending four meetings of the allied premiers. The rock on which many a French project for partial occupation of the Ruhr and the taking charge of important German industries. The British cabinet met this afternoon and registered its refusal to cooperate with France in such measures.

Premier Mussolini's proposals for a settlement were treated contemptuously as was due the head of a powerful nation, but were not taken seriously as a panacea for the German sick man of Europe. The German note was rejected unanimously with the general comment that it meant merely sparing to gain time.

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TIERNAN DIVORCE SUIT DISMISSED

Judge Montgomery Drops Cross-Complaint Reopened Two Weeks Ago.

Judge Chester R. Montgomery, in Superior court No. 2 Monday afternoon, wrote the final chapter in the John P. Tiernan legal angle of domestic troubles.

On motion of Atty. George Sands, who represented Tiernan in the suit for divorce and who filed the cross-complaint on which the decree was awarded the erstwhile law instructor, Judge Montgomery dismissed the cross-complaint which was reopened when Judge Montgomery set aside the divorce two weeks ago and which Tiernan had remarried. The original complaint filed by Mrs. Tiernan, was dismissed.

Tiernan was not in court. He is now in New York city with his brother, Peter Tiernan, assistant corporation counsel.

YOUTH ADMITS BURGLARY. VALPARAISO, Dec. 11.—(By A. P.)—Herbert Smith of Pontiac, Ill., and Alvin Osborne of Big Springs, Tex., both 17 years old, pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary, a "steal here today, steal there tomorrow" type of crime.

The youths were each sentenced to serve from two to 14 years in the reformatory, but sentence was suspended on a promise of good behavior. Both were told to go to their homes by the court.

SCALDED TO DEATH

TERRE HAUTE, Dec. 11.—(By A. P.)—William Austerlimer, 43 years old, engineer at the Union Laundry Co. was scalded to death today this afternoon. Austerlimer was pinned behind the boiler when he had gone in an effort to stop a leak in one of the steam pipes one of the connections became loose causing the full force of the steam to pour on his body.

TRAINMEN KILLED

WELCH, W. Va., Dec. 11.—(By P. P.)—Joe Beck, engineer, and Earl Neal, brakeman, were scalded to death when a Norfolk & Western freight engine swept through an open switch and overturned near here today.

Large School Structure is Burned Down

One Hundred Cadets Escape as Flames Destroy Recreation Building.

CULVER, Dec. 11.—Losses

estimated at \$100,000 or more resulted from a fire which destroyed the Recreation building at Culver Military academy late Monday afternoon. The building was entirely destroyed by the flames, the loss including a group of airplane motors valued at approximately \$50,000 used in the motor school, and about 20 targets used on the rifle range, which was located in the building.

The value of the building itself was about \$50,000. The loss is fully covered by insurance, according to officials of the academy. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is thought that defective electric wiring may have been responsible.

About 100 cadets were in the structure, shooting on the rifle range, when the fire started at 2 p. m. All escaped without injury. The roof fell in a short time after the blaze began. The fire department was helpless in its efforts to prevent the destruction of the building but prevented the spread of the flames to adjoining structures.

This building, which was erected in 1897 and was formerly the site of a riding hall, was about 210 feet long and 100 feet wide.

SHIPPING MEASURE RECEIVES BAPTISM OF FIRE IN SENATE

Democrats Launch Hot Attack as Bill is Taken Up by Upper Chamber.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—(By A. P.)—The administration shipping bill was taken up today by the senate and was subjected immediately to a baptism of fire at the hands of Democratic opponents.

Chairman Jones of the commerce committee, which reported the bill, introduced in evening several changes in the house draft, called up the measure. His opening statement in behalf of the legislation, however, went over until tomorrow, because of the time consumed by the Democrats in evening sessions.

The measure and by the reading of the entire bill and both majority and minority reports, in compliance with a demand by Sen. Fletcher, of Florida, ranking Democratic member of the commerce committee.

Democrats' Object. Sen. Jones proposed first that the senate proceed to immediate consideration of the bill, but objection from the Democratic side blocked the move until after the regular calendar had been disposed of. The commerce committee chairman next suggested that the senate, beginning tomorrow, meet an hour earlier, but withdrew the proposal in the face of objections from several Democratic senators and Chairman Norris of the agriculture committee, that this would interfere with committee activities.

The next move by Sen. Jones—a proposal that the senate, on quitting work today, recess instead of adjourning in order to expedite consideration of the bill, however, was used by three Democratic senators as a vehicle of attack on the administration policy with respect to the measure and on the legislation itself.

The proposal later was ruled out of order by Sen. McNary, Republican of Oregon, who was presiding, on a point raised by Sen. Harrison, Democrat, Mississippi.

Robinson Opens Attack. Sen. Robinson of Arkansas set off in the attack with a criticism of the administration's course in postponing house action until after the elections on what he described as "concededly unpopular legislation" and that the administration pressure to bear to hasten enactment of the legislation before the members of congress have had a chance to reflect on the expression of the people at the polls in November.

Sen. Harrison criticized the action of the administration in calling the special session at which the house passed the shipping bill and at which he said the senate had done "just four things."

Sen. Harrison declared that to accomplish "these four things" the taxpayers were forced to pay the expense of an extra session and added that "now this piece of infamous legislation proposed to saddle an extra \$75,000,000 on their backs."

FREE!

Did you find the answer to that question? Have you solved the little puzzle in your mind? Is there something that you would like to know, to set your mind at rest?

The Washington bureau of The News-Times will answer your questions, free. You'll find instructions on the editorial page.

It is a service established for you. It is your loss if you don't use it.

Write it now.

The News-Times

northern Indiana's leading paper.

SPANISH VISITORS GIVE INTERESTING VIEWS OF AMERICA

Studebaker Sales Manager in Spain Here for Inspection Trip.

Interesting phases of business and social life in Spain were told by Marquis De La Laguna and Senor Juan Romagosa, who is in charge of Studebaker sales in Spain, when they arrived here yesterday to inspect the Studebaker plants. With the party two sons of Senor Romagosa, Juan Jr., 19 years old and Manuel, 17. All are residents of Barcelona, Spain. They are staying at the Oliver hotel.

"General business conditions in Spain, with the exception of the extreme north of the country, Bilbao, and the province of Asturias, have been greatly improved during the past year," Senor Romagosa told an interviewer. "Prohibition will not come to Spain nor is it desirable that it will come. On the other hand, it is most desirable that the United States lift the ban and permit our chief product, wine, to be imported."

When asked how the methods of sale in Spain differ with American methods, Senor Romagosa said: "The first and most important thing in my country is to sell well—advertising—not in the true sense of the word but by means of getting the Studebaker car into the hands of the owner."

"The quality of the car is such that the owner really sells nearly a dozen cars. The owner of a Studebaker is our most valuable asset."

This is the first visit of both to the United States. Both said they are greatly impressed by the immensity of the country as compared with Spain and other smaller foreign countries.

Marquis De La Laguna said: "The impression we have received so far has strengthened the high esteem we have always had for the United States."

He is not a representative of the Studebaker corporation but is greatly interested in the Studebaker car, owing to his close friendship with Senor Romagosa.

Spain Against Prohibition. Concerning prohibition in the United States and the possibility of Volstead ever gripping Spain, Senor Romagosa said: "Prohibition will not come to Spain nor is it desirable that it will come. On the other hand, it is most desirable that the United States lift the ban and permit our chief product, wine, to be imported."

When the reporter asked if he would be annoyed by prohibition during his visit he smiled and said: "I will miss my wine. That is the only liquor we drink and I won't mind the ban on the others."

In response to an inquiry about introduction of jazz bands in Spain, he became more talkative.

"Jazz bands," he said, "were amusing to us at first but we are getting used to them fast. American jazz is not characteristic of Spanish music but we are liking it better each day."

"Musical training in Spain has been of the classical type for so long that these colored orchestras make a big contrast."

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BULLETIN

CASPER, Wyo., Dec. 11.—(By A. P.)—In the arrest of a woman who got off the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy passenger train from Billings here tonight, Capt. Clayton of the police department believes he has captured Mrs. Clara Phillips, convicted murderer of Mrs. Albert Meadows of Los Angeles.

The woman, accompanied by a man, arrived about 8:15 p. m. and immediately entered a taxi cab. Two motorcycle officers followed her and made the arrest. The police announced the description of the woman tallies with that of Mrs. Phillips.

AVIATORS STILL MISSING. NOGALES, Ariz., Dec. 11.—No trace of the missing aviator was reported here tonight by Capt. R. G. Erwin, who returned with four planes from the interior of Mexico, where they scouted today in their search for Col. Francis Marshall and Lieut. C. L. Webber.

After William Chaney, whom the defense has tried to connect with the murder, had been cross-examined at the morning session, without departing from his story, which gives him an alibi, a witness was put on the stand who also gave Mr. Chaney an alibi at the time the Sheffer home was blown up.

DIVORCED WIFE OF NIE SHEFFER TO APPEAR ON STAND

Defense Attempts to Exclude Her Testimony Against Alleged Slayer.

ANGOLA, Ind., Dec. 11.—(By A. P.)—The greatest trial battle of the Nie Sheffer trial will begin tomorrow morning when Irma Hoff Sheffer, wife of Lagrange, takes the witness stand to testify against her divorced husband, who is being tried for murder in the first degree.

The defense will fight to exclude the evidence of Mrs. Hoff Sheffer, who proposes to tell of threats that Nie made against his brother, James W. Sheffer, the murdered man. It will contend that such threats, if made, were "privileged communications" between husband and wife and that the divorced woman has no right under the law to reveal them.

Attorney, J. W. III. The question will be threshed out before Judge Emmett A. Bratton, who is presiding in the absence of the jury. Part of the evidence of Mrs. Sheffer will be admitted but the question of how much she shall tell is a fine point of law. The testimony of Mrs. Sheffer may be the biggest sensation of the trial, if admitted.

A jinx seems to be pursuing the case. Judge Emmett A. Bratton, one of the attorneys for Nie, was compelled to leave court on account of illness. At the same time a doctor had to be called for Myron Delbert, a member of the jury who has a bad cold which is said to be bordering on the "flu." He is the third juror for whom medical attention has been called since the trial began.

Testify on Ammunition. Evidence was introduced this afternoon by the state to prove that the ammunition which killed Mr. and Mrs. Sheffer was purchased from a mail order house, C. E. Frederick, of the Auburn Hardware Co., and Frank Drago, of the Culbertson Hardware Co., of Auburn, testified that they had never sold or seen any shells of the make of those from which the fatal bullets were fired.

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